

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ND 963016  
By [Signature] NARA Date 6/11/02

*DEF 19-8 25+ Jan*



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~TOP SECRET~~

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O 091237Z DEC 72  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0535  
BT  
~~TOP SECRET~~ TEHRAN 7389

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Dec 9, 1972  
9:10 a.m.

*12/9/72*  
**ACTION COPY**

*Johnson  
Tel. 7389*

*7389*

SUBJECT: ENHANCE PLUS

REF: A. STATE 219119 B. STATE 220718; C. TEHRAN 7287

1. DURING AUDIENCE WITH SHAH DECEMBER 8, I HANDED HIM PAPER SUMMARIZING POSITION CONTAINED STATE REFTELS. TEXT BY SEPTEL.

2. AFTER READING PAPER, SHAH WAS AFFIRMATIVE IN HIS INITIAL RESPONSE, BUT NATURALLY SAID HE WISHED TAKE OUT PROPOSALS UNDER ADVISEMENT. HE WAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OUR EFFORTS TO GIVE IRAN ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF F-5ES.

3. HE OFFERED ONE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. ON PROPOSAL TO LEASE EIGHT F-4DS, SHAH MADE QUITE CLEAR HE DID NOT WANT D MODELS. I EXPLAINED THAT WE FELT D MODEL WAS BETTER SUITED FOR IRAN'S CAPABILITY TO UTILIZE NEW AIRCRAFT AT THIS TIME AND THAT EARLY INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL E MODELS MIGHT DISTURB CAREFUL PLANNING AND TRAINING FOR F-4E PROGRAM BEGINNING IN MAY 1973. REFERRING TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF EARLIER LEASE OF F-4ES, I RECALLED HOW TRANSFER OF THOSE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT DECISION FOR USAF, REDUCING NUMBER OF E MODELS AVAILABLE FOR ITS ACTIVE INVENTORY.

4. HOWEVER, SHAH WAS PERSISTENT AND FIRM IN NOT PREFERRING D MODELS, AND, AS AUTHORIZED, I SAID E MODELS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IF HE DESIRED. SHAH COMMENTED ADDITION OF EIGHT E MODELS TO THOSE NOW ON LEASE AT MEHRABAD WOULD GIVE IRAN ANOTHER FULL SQUADRON OF F-4ES. IF THIS IS SHAH'S THINKING, HIT MAY BE THAT HE WILL LATER ASK US TO EXTEND LEASE ON F-4ES PRESENTLY IN COUNTRY IN ORDER MAINTAIN COMPLETE SQUADRON UNTIL 32 F-5ES ARRIVE.

5. AS TO CONTINGENT LEASE OF F-4S, I TOLD HIM AIRCRAFT COULD BE EITHER D OR E MODELS, DEPENDING ON CONSULTATIONS AT TIME IRAN MADE REQUEST.

~~TOP SECRET~~

